

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 7 and 18 have been amended and new claim 24 has been added. Claim 3 has been cancelled. Claims 1 and 3-24 are pending and under consideration. Claims 3, 7 and 8 are objected to. Claims 6, 14 and 15 are allowed.

Claims 1 and 18 have been rewritten into independent form to include the features of objected to claim 3. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: _____

1-3-07

By: _____



Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501